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Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards

Allergen Labeling - Possible Update of Allergenic Ingredients List

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Report Highlights:

The European Commission has published a proposal to add "lupin and products thereof" and "mollusks and products thereof" to the list of potential allergenic ingredients which must be indicated on the label of foodstuffs. The proposal was notified to the WTO on October 13, 2006 and third countries have until December 12, 2006 to comment on the proposal.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Brussels USEU [BE2]
[E3]

Allergen Labeling – Possible Update of Allergenic Ingredients List

Annex IIIa to the EU's general labeling [directive 2000/13/EC](#) lists 12 groups of allergenic ingredients which must be indicated on the label of foodstuffs, as they are likely to cause adverse reactions in susceptible individuals. Annex IIIa currently includes:

- Cereals containing gluten and products thereof
- Crustaceans and products thereof
- Eggs and products thereof
- Fish and products thereof
- Peanuts and products thereof
- Soybeans and products thereof
- Milk and dairy products (including lactose)
- Nuts and nut products
- Celery and products thereof
- Mustard and products thereof
- Sesame seeds and products thereof
- Sulphur dioxide and sulphites at concentrations of more than 10 mg/kg or 10 mg/l expressed as SO₂

Directive 2000/13/EC stipulates that the list of allergenic ingredients must be systematically re-examined and updated based on scientific advice from the European Safety Authority (EFSA). In this context, earlier this year EFSA delivered an opinion on lupin and mollusks. EFSA states in its opinion that lupin flour is being added to wheat flour for the production of bakery products and that cases of severe allergic reactions have been documented. Studies show that there is a relatively high risk of a cross-allergy to lupin in between 30% and 60% of persons who are allergic to peanuts. In the case of mollusks, EFSA states that they are often used as ingredients in a number of preparations and in products such as surimi. Allergic reactions, which can be severe, affect up 0.4% of the population. Cross-allergies between mollusks and crustaceans occur frequently as they both contain the same allergenic protein tropomyosin.

Based on EFSA's conclusions, the European Commission has now published a proposal to add "lupin and products thereof" and "mollusks and products thereof" to Annex IIIa of Directive 2000/13/EC. The proposal was notified to the WTO on October 13, 2006 (WTO notification G/TBT/N/EEC/124). Third countries can comment on the Commission's proposal until December 12, 2006.

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Related reports from USEU Brussels:

Report Number	Title	Date Released
E35196	Allergen Labeling – Implementation	October 2005
E35060	Allergen Labeling – Temporary Exemptions	March 2005
E36066	Allergen Labeling on Wine – Authorized Languages	April 2006
E34093	Allergen Labeling on Wine	November 2004
These reports can be accessed through our website http://useu.usmission.gov/agri or through the FAS website http://www.fas.usda.gov/scriptsw/attacherep/default.asp .		